

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177017

FOL REPEAT OF PONTA DELGADA 269 TO SECSTATE JUL 25

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 269

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: AZOREAN DISTURBANCES

REF: PONTA DELGADA 267

1. JULY 24 BEATING IN PONTA DELGADA OF SIX ARMED PORTUGUESE SAILORS FROM FRIGATE JOAOBELO WAS PARTIALLY DUE TO TYPE OF FRICTION THAT OCCURS BETWEEN SAILORS AND RESIDENTS IN PORTS. UNIVERSALLY BELIEVED HERE THAT SAILORS PROVOKED, HOWEVER FACT THAT SAILORS CONTINENT; AND REPUTED LEFTISTS EXACERBATED SITUATION. ALTHOUGH APPARENT FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR THAT TROUBLE LIKELY BETWEEN SAILORS AND RESIDENTS, NEITHER POLICE NOR ARMY MADE ATTEMPT TO PREVENT FIGHT OR PROTECT SAILORS. PONTA DELGADA MAYOR TOLD ME THAT BEATING WAS FIRST INCIDENT OF VIOLENCE IN OVER THIRTY YEARS. FRIGATE SAILED FROM PONTA DELGADA AFTER-NOON JULY 25 THUS REMOVING LIKELYHOOD OF FURTHER VIOLENCE.

GWM RESIGNATION OF LEFTIST GOVERNOR OF ANGRA DISTRICT AND VIOLENCE IN PONTA DELGADA ILLUSTRAT DEEP POPULAR DISLIKE OF LEFTIST AND CONTINENTALS AND WILLINGNESS OF AZOREANS TO TAKE MATTERS IN OWN
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HANDS. WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT LISBONS AUTHORITY IN AZORES IS

GRADUALLY SLIPPING AWAY. IT IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE FOR GOP TO IMPOSE UNPOPULAR OFFICIALS OR POLICIES HERE, AZOREANS WILL NOT ACCEPT THEM AND LOCAL AUHORITIES SEEM UNWILLING TO ENFORCE ACCEPTENCE.

3. EVENTS OF JULY 24 APPARENTLY SPONTANEOUS, NO EVIDENCE OF PLOTTING OR COORDINATION. WE SEE NO INDICATION OF ACTIVE REVOLT PLANNING.

PFEIFLE UNQTE INGERSOLL

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